ID 90**7**

30 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

54416

SUBJECT: Transfer of German Military Document Section and Special Document Section, Intelligence Division, WDGS

- l. Reference is made to memorandum your office dated 15 April 1947, Subject: "German Military Document Section and Special Document Section, Intelligence Division, WDGS, and to telephone conversation of 21 April 1947 between General Sibert of your office and Colonel Ennis, Intelligence Division, WDGS.
- 2. Enclosed herewith are the detailed functions of the two sections. Regarding German Military Document Section, it is to be noted that functions which do not pertain to research on captured documents have been omitted since the organization and physical custody of the documents will be assumed by the Adjutant General on 31 May 1947.
- . 3. Lt Col Jame E. Ligon, Chief, Document Section, Exploitation Branch, Intelligence Division, is designated as the representative of the Intelligence Division to coordinate with your office in arranging the transfer of the two sections.
- 4. Necessary action has been taken to continue on temporary duty with the two establishments those officers who are scheduled to attend the August 1947 class of the Strategic Intelligence School until the opening date of the course.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE:

/s/ W. A. SOLOMON Colonel, GSC Asst Executive

2 Encls: 1-Function of GMDS 2-Functions of SDS

APPENDIX I

Intelligence Functions of

German Military Documents Section

- 1. The following functions are now performed by the exploitation subsection of German Military Documents Section:
 - a. Screening of all incoming documents shipments for material of intelligence value; determining priorities for settling up (by the archival sub-section) of documents or document collections; (1) which contain material needed by Special Documents Section or other intelligence agencies for exploitation or special projects, (2) which require detailed screening and indexing for items of intelligence interest.
 - b. Advising the archival sub-section as to the disposition of captured documents which are (1) of no intelligence or military value; to be deposited on permanent loan with other government agencies, (2) Of primary technical value; to be exploited by the technical services of the War Department.
 - c. Preparing information abstracts and compiling and maintaining and index (known as the GMDS Intelligence Catalogue) of all items of intelligence value contained in documents in the German Military Documents Section collections
 - d. Indicating which documents are of particular interest to agencies maintaining liaison groups with GMDS, such as the FBI, War Crimes Commission, etc.
 - coordinating with the War Department (Chief, Information Control Branch, Security Group, ID, WDGS) on the security classification of captured German documents, i.e., the upgrading or down grading, from the overall classification of "confidential," of individual documentsor information therefrom.
 - Determining the availability within GMDS of all documents containing intelligence information on a specific subject in response to requests from authorized agencies. This involves searching the collection for, and assembling the relevant documents for the interested agency, but does not include the translating of documents.
- 2. Documents Branch will assume the above functions and provide a CIG detachment to operate in the Pentagon in direct conjunction with the

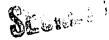
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Adjutant General. The latter will take over the title "German Military Documents Section," and all non-intelligence functions, such as those of the archival sub-section. These including receiving, library cataloguing, shelving, storing, recording, loaning to other agencies, and otherwise handling and disposing of documents. A detailed plan for coordination and cooperation between CIG, the Adjutant General, and the Intelligence Division on such matters as declassification, directives to field collecting agencies, etc., will be submitted later.

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APPENDIX II

Functions of Special Document Section

- 1. The mission and functions of SDS may be summarized as follows:
 - a. Extracting from captured German and Russian documents factual information pertaining to the USSR and European satellites.
 - b. Preparing full translations of selected captured German and Russian documents.
 - c. Preparing project studies from collated documents an selected subjects, as assigned or approved by the Chief, Intelligence Group, ID, WDGS.

NOTE: All current projects will be completed or merged with the Industrial Card File before the transfer to CIG except two:

- (1) Transportation and Communications of the USSR and European Satellites
- (2) Soviet Military Potential
- d. Extracting and translating intelligence information from current Russian newspapers and periodicals for inclusion in the above projects or in the Industrial Card File.
- e. Maintaining and operating the Industrial Card File. This file contains in fragmentary form all available information on individual industrial installations in the USSR and satellite countries. It was established by the Intelligence Division in October 1946, in direct coordination with the State Department, A-2, ONI and other interested agencies. Agreement was reached on the essential elements of information to be obtained on each plant and on a standard card format. Since captured German and Russian documents proved the most prolific and dependable source of such information, SDS was designated as the central working agency for the project. The ICF now consists of approximately 17,000 items which have been produced and circulated, and 15,000 which are in processof reproduction.

The majority of the information is still extracted by the staff of SDS from captured documents, which are borrowed from GNDS and other document repositories and agencies in the USA and abroad. Information from other sources is carded by the participating agencies and submitted to SDS for collationmy assignment of ICF number, reproduction, and dissemination. Direct channels were set up between SDS and member agencies for all matters pertaining to the ICF and to captured documents.



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On completion of the card file, it is planned to have competent analysts examine the information on each individual plant. After further collation, checking, evaluation, and analysis of the collected data, they are to produce a current basic plant list which will be adaptable for use on International Business Lachines.

2. Documents Branch will assume the functions described in Paragraph 1, a through d, and will continue the extraction of ICF information from foreign documents. A plan for the continued operation of the ICF by CIG, and the possible incorporation of the ICF into the Foreign Industrial Establishments project, should the latter be implemented, will be prepared by ORE.

APPENDIX III

WAR DEPARTMENT STATEMENT:

FUNCTIONS OF THE GERMAN MILITARY DOCUMENTS SECTION.

AND THE SPECIAL DOCUMENTS SECTION AS OF 1 APRIL 1947

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RESEARCH FUNCTIONS OF GERMAN MILITARY DOCUMENT SECTION

1. Mission

The mission of the German Military Document Section is as follows:

- a. Organize, maintain and keep accessible an active archive of captured German military documents.
 - b. Receive and process incoming document shipments.
- c. Screen for intelligence all captured German documents received, and prepare and disseminate an intelligence index listing items of intelligence interest.
- d. Dispose of non-military records by lending them on a permanent basis to governmental agencies of primary interest.
- e. Make available to the appropriate technical zervices of the War Department documents of a technical nature.

2. Research Functions

To execute and implement the above mission, the following research activities are conducted by GMDS:

- a. Screens for intelligence and determinespriority for setting up in the archival sub-section document shipments which:
 - (1) Contain research material for use in special projects conducted by Special Document Section.
 - (2) Contain material to be intelligence indexed.
- b. Advises the archival sub-section in the disposition of captured records which:
 - (1) Are of no military value and are to be deposited on permanent loan with other governmental agencies (Library of Congress, National Archives, State Department, Department of Commerce, etc.)
 - (2) Are of primary technical value and are to be exploited by the technical services of the War Department.

(The above activities include the appropriate disposition of phonograph records, books, motion picture films, still pictures, slides, etc.)

c. Conducts research on captured German documents in order to produce a card index of items of intelligence value. The exploitation subsection also prepares the cards for the "offset" process and arranges them for dissemination to the following agencies:

- (1) Intelligence Documents File Branch, Intelligence Division, WDGS
- (2) Air Information Division, A-2, USAAF
- (3) Central Intelligence Group
- (4) Canadian Army Staff
- (5) British Army Staff
- (6) Joint Intelligence Bureau, London, (British)
- (7) Reading Panel, Intelligence Division, WDGS (12 sets for dissemination within Intelligence Division and Technical Services.)
- d. Call documents of particular interest to the attention of permanent liaison groups with GMDS; namely:
 - (1) Historical Division, U S Army
 - (2) FBI
 - (3) War Crimes Commission
- e. Determines the security classification of captured German documents as orally directed by the Chief, Information Control Granch, Security Group, Intelligence Division, WDGS. This activity includes upgrading and downgrading of captured German documents. In this connection, overall classification of the document collection is "confidential."
- f. Conducts searches of the collection for availability of documents on broad subject requests as opposed to requests for specific documents.
- g. It is to be noted that GMDS does not translate documents for using agencies, but lends the original captured documents (or microfilms) for exploitation.

3. Completed Work in GMDS

- a. Aside from the archival phase which includes setting up the collection in usable order, the intelligence index (see par 2c) is completed in part as follows:
 - (1) 52,200 folders of captured documents have been examined and indexed for the intelligence contained therein.
 - (2) 6,200 different items of intelligence value have been carded and the information disseminated.



b. Approximately five (5) percent of a collection of 700 reels of microfilms have been reviewed and properly intelligence indexed.

4. Mark Remaining

- a. 21,000 folders of unreviewed captured documents remain to be examined and properly indexed in the manner outlined in par 2c.
- b. Additional shipments arrive from the theater at an average rate of ten (10) to fifteen (15) tons per month. These, as well as several major collections in the warehouse, remain to be screened approximately 500 packing cases of documents.
- c. Of the collection of approximately 700 reels of microfilms of documents photographed elsewhere, fifty (50) percent remain to be viewed to determine subject matter and ninety-five (95) percent require examination for the purpose of the intelligence index.

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FUNCTIONS OF SPECIAL DOCUMENT SECTION

1. Mission

The mission of the Special Document Section is as follows:

- a. Extract from captured documents factual information pertaining to the USSR.
- b. Prepare project studies under the guidance of the Chief, Eurasian Branch, Intelligence Group, Intelligence Division, WDGS, and prepare additional studies initiated by Special Document Section as approved by the Chief, Intelligence Group.
- c. Prepare full translations of selected captured German and Russian documents.
- d. Disseminate completed projects and translations through the Chief, Exploitation Branch, Intelligence Group, Intelligence Division, WDGS.

2. Intelligence Functions

- a. In accomplishing the above mission, activities of Special Document Section were initially centered around five (5) major research projects based on captured documents pertaining to the USSR; namely:
 - (1) Atomic Energy and Allied Industries
 - (2) Machine Tool Industry in the USSR
 - (3) Soviet Railway Transport
 - (4) Naval and Maritime Shipbuilding in the USSR
 - (5) Communications in the USSR (telephone, telegraph, cable, radio, mail, television, radar, courier services.)
- b. In addition, the Intelligence Division, WDGS directed the establishment of an "Industrial Card File Project." The preparation of this file of Soviet industrial plants is based on captured documents available in the German Military Document Section, Washington Document Center and other document agencies. This file contains in fragmentary form all information available on Soviet Industrial installations including personnel, working methods, equipment, output, type of production, etc. When the card file is completed, competent analysts will examine the information plant by plant and, after evaluating and collating it, will produce a current basic plant list which will be adaptable for use on International Business Machines.
- c. In conjunction with the project outlined in paragraph 2b above, a newspaper evaluation sub-section has been established for the purpose of extracting, translating and disseminating pertinent data from Russian periodicals

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and newspapers.

d. The production of a handbook on the USSR was initiated in January 1947. This project is based on top-level captured German documents as an overall picture of Russian industry and has been given and arbitrary deadline of 1 May 1947.

3. Status of SDS Projects

- a. Atomic Energy: During October 1946 it was found that all presently available information pertaining to atomic energy had been exhausted and the intelligence derived properly disseminated.
- b. Machine Tooks: Information collected on this subject matter is being included in the Industrial Card File Project (see para 3f).
- c. Railway Capacities: This project will provide detailed information on Russian railway lines, their capacity, technical data, etc. This includes a general survey of waterways in Russia. The project is long-range and incomplete.
- d. Shipbuilding: At the time of the establishment of the Industrial Card File Project (see para 2b) all available information on shipbuilding in the USSR had been exploited. All future information will be included in the card file.
- e. Telecommunications: In December 1946 it became apparent that the documents on hand pertaining to telecommunications had been exploited fully. The telecommunications project was then merged with the railroad study (see para 3c).
- f. Industrial Card File Project: Data utilized for this project are based on pre-war Russian material, captured German documents and current Russian newspapers and periodicals. All available top-level captured German documents have been exploited and work has begun on low-level German documents and Russian material. This project is perpetuating and long-range.
- g. Newspaper Evaluation: Press reading will continue indefinitely in conjunction with activities pertaining to the Industrial Card File Project (see para 3f).
- CC: Office of Collection & Dissemination (1)
 Office of Reports & Estimates (1)
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 Executive Registry (1)
 Central Records (2)